United Nations S/2007/769

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 December 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 27 December 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), I have the honour to convey the attached letter dated 21 December 2007 (see annex), which I received from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union. The letter transmits the twelfth report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), covering the period from 1 September to 30 November 2007.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon

07-66265 (E) 070108

Annex

Letter dated 21 December 2007 from the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

In accordance with the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), I attach the twelfth three-monthly report on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR). The report covers the period from 1 September to 30 November 2007. I should be grateful if you would transmit this report to the President of the United Nations Security Council.

(*Signed*) Javier **Solana**

Enclosure

Report of the Secretary-General and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union on the activities of the European Union military mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

I. Introduction

1. The present report covers the period 1 September to 30 November 2007.

2. The Security Council, in its resolutions 1575 (2004), 1639 (2005), 1722 (2006) and 1785 (2007), requested that Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the European Union (EU), report to the Council on the activities of the EU military mission (EUFOR) through the appropriate channels and at least at three-monthly intervals. This document is the twelfth such report.

II. Political background

3. Attempts to reach political agreement on police reform dominated the political agenda during September. Discussions between political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, facilitated by the High Representative and EU Special Representative, Miroslav Lajčák, ended inconclusively on 11 October.

4. On 19 October, the High Representative announced a series of measures designed to improve the functioning of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina (a Decision enacting the Law on Changes and Amendments to the Law on the Council of Ministers; and proposed changes to the Rules of Procedure of both Houses of Parliament). These measures attracted strong support from the international community, but were initially opposed by the Republika Srpska leadership.

5. The High Representative/EU Special Representative engaged intensively with political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the second half of October and in November. On 28 October, the six Bosnia and Herzegovina party political leaders signed the "Mostar Declaration" on honouring the commitments for the implementation of police reform with the aim of initialling and signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement and, on 22 November, the Action Plan for Implementation of the Mostar Declaration. In the Action Plan the six party political leaders committed themselves to adopting the necessary legislation for the establishment of State bodies and police structures in line with the three EU principles within six months.

6. On 30 November, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed on amendments to its Rules of Procedure, which met the criteria formulated by the High Representative. In the same context, agreement was also reached with regard to the Authentic Interpretation of the 19 October Decision on the Law on the Council of Ministers. On the basis of this agreement, the High Representative enacted the Authentic Interpretation on 3 December.[1]

7. The European Commission assessed that the Mostar Declaration and the Action Plan, both of which were adopted by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers on 3 December,[1] together represented progress towards meeting EU

[1] Beyond the reporting period but included for completeness.

conditionality, as a result of which the EU Commissioner for Enlargement, Olli Rehn, initialled the text of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina on 4 December.[1]

III. Security situation and EUFOR activities

8. The security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable throughout the reporting period.

9. The current force of some 2,500 EUFOR troops is concentrated in Sarajevo, with liaison and observation teams deployed throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR continues to conduct operations in line with its mandate: providing deterrence; ensuring continued compliance in relation to the responsibilities specified in the General Framework Agreement for Peace, annexes 1-A and 2; and contributing to a safe and secure environment. At the request of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, EUFOR, assisted by the Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior Special Police, conducted search operations of Radovan Karadzic's network in Pale near Sarajevo. Material was seized during the operations and handed over for further investigation. EUFOR continues to support the Bosnia and Herzegovina law enforcement agencies in fighting organized crime in close cooperation with the EU Police Mission (EUPM).

10. In the area of defence reform, the Tactical Support Brigade and the Air Defence Brigade of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina were activated, respectively, on 12 and 18 September. On 27 September EUFOR handed over the responsibility for demining to the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the donation of demining equipment. EUFOR, together with the independent inspection teams of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, carried out full inspections of ammunition storage sites. In October, the final draft of the Law on Civilian Movement Control was handed over to the Legislative Committee of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina for comment. The law is one of the legal preconditions for the transfer of responsibility for joint military affairs to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

11. During the reporting period, EUFOR undertook joint training activities with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to increase local capacity to maintain security and safeguard the safe and secure environment. The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina also observed EUFOR map exercises.

12. On 22 October, General John McColl succeeded General Sir John Reith as Operation Commander, and, on 4 December, Major General Ignacio Martin Villalain succeeded Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Wirthauer as Force Commander.[1]

IV. Outlook

13. In the forthcoming months, the main political focus is likely to centre on implementation of the Mostar Declaration on police reform, and other necessary issues on the reform agenda.